

The EPA Green River Basin Sub-Area Emergency Response Project

Background

As the Nation's largest water, earth, biological science and civilian mapping agency, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) works in cooperation with more than 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable and impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. Information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists monitoring hydrological, biological, energy, and mineral resources. USGS monitoring serves to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters; to contribute to the sound conservation, economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources; and to enhance the quality of life.

As a manager of the Hazardous Substances Superfund, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to designate and prepare emergency response action plans for sub-areas throughout the nation. These plans will assist local emergency offices that have a responsibility to respond to, and contain, oil spills before they become an environmental threat.

Green River Basin Area

The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 required designations for sub-area contingency planning. Based upon risk and environmental concerns, the Green River Basin environment was selected as one such area. The Green River Basin Sub-Area encompasses three counties in northeastern Utah and a small portion of western Moffat County, Colorado. With approximately 8,414 sq miles of terrain ranging from 13,500 feet to 5,000 feet of elevation, the Green River Basin Sub-Area boasts unique mountain scenery, pristine deserts, and many canyon lands. The area supports a wide variety of wildlife and provides an abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities. The Green River Basin contains a major highway route for hazardous materials. Without tools to plan for and respond to hazardous spills, this region will remain vulnerable, and its inhabitants will be unprotected from potential environmental disasters.

Application

The USGS, Rocky Mountain Mapping Center and the EPA's Region VIII Oil Response Program are working together to implement web-based information and decision support applications. Using ArcIMS, the Green River Basin emergency response action plan becomes a visual information tool accessible to

numerous responders and managers. This application supports accurate and expedient emergency response with digital georeferenced information. Locations of fire stations, hospitals, public water sources, water access points, surface water intakes, oil storage facilities, and transportation routes are immediately accessible. Built-in Internet links provide real-time stream gaging and weather information.

Information

For information specific to the USGS Green River Basin Emergency Response Application contact:
USGS Web Mapping
Box 25046, MS 516
Denver, CO 80225-0046
303-202-4333

For information on other USGS products and services, call 1-800-ASK-USGS, use the ASK.USGS fax service, which is available 24 hours a day at 703-648-4888, or visit the Rocky Mountain Mapping Center Web site at <http://rockyweb.cr.usgs.gov/>. Please visit the USGS home page at <http://www.usgs.gov/>.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
RMMC Information Sheet – Green River Basin EPA
November 2001